Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 12, No. 4 April, 2004 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 728-1261

Brochure, Book Explain Transgender Bills and Domestic Partnerships

Two bills passed last year protecting transgender people from employment discrimination and from gender harassment in the work place. But probably very few people know about these laws, and especially just how the laws protect them. Few know how to fight such discrimination and harassment effectively when it does occur. Lambda Letters Project has engaged a volunteer attorney to fill the gap.

Joy Fisher of Sacramento is working on a brochure that explains the protections for transgender people that became available with the passage of AB 196 and AB 76 last year. AB 196 deals with *employment discrimination*. It broadens the scope of prohibited sex discrimination in employment only under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) to include the employee's gender. AB 76 deals with *harassment* in connection with employment. It amends the California Government Code to include gender harassment within the definition of "harassment because of sex." The law provides that employers have a responsibility to protect employees from harassment because of sex if the employer knows or should have known of this conduct. The employees must be protected, even from harassment by customers.

Of equal interest, since 2000 the state legislature has passed 12 bills affecting the rights and duties of domestic partners in California. Last year the Board of Equalization made two rule changes affecting domestic partners as well. The subject of the rights and duties of domestic partners has become complicated because many people have no idea what those rights and duties are. We suspect that even many attorneys may not have a clear, comprehensive understanding of the subject.

But we know three attorneys who will help make sense of it all: Robert Harrison of Los Angeles, Rusty Nichols of San Diego, and Carolyn Woodall of Sonora. They are volunteering their efforts to turn out a book that we hope will be published near the end of 2004. Topics include how a domestic partnership is defined by California law, who is eligible to be in one, what obligations do domestic partners have, how property rights are affected, how children are affected, what rights does a domestic partner have to act on behalf of a partner who gets sick, what happens when a domestic partnership ends, and many other topics.

Publishing this book at the end of 2004 would be great timing because the largest of the domestic partner bills, AB 205, will become effective on January 1, 2005. Because this subject is so large, they could use additional help. If you are an attorney, or know one, willing to help create this book, we would like to hear about it. Interested people can contact Boyce Hinman at (916) 728-1261 or boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org.

Lambda Letters Project received a $6,000 grant from the Good Parents Fund to act as seed money in the creation, printing, and distribution of this brochure and book. Undoubtedly more funds will be needed. If you would like to support this effort, please make a contribution to the Friends of Lambda Letters. Send your check to Lambda Letters along with your signed letters. Contributions to the Friends of Lambda Letters may be tax-deductible.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters and Messages Collected

February, 2004	13,185 letters & e-mails
In all of 2004	42,034 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

February, 2004	$2,479
In all of 2004	$7,001

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Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; and women by urging elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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People of Color Issue

Eliminate Racial, Ethnic Health Disparities

by Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

Despite significant advances in public health and healthcare, the health status of people of color in California continues to lag behind that of the population at large. Illness and injury generate tremendous social costs in the form of lost productivity and expenditures for disability, worker's compensation, and public benefit programs. With communities of color becoming a majority in the state, a healthy and productive California will increasingly require the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

AB 2324 (Judy Chan, D–Monterey Park) addresses racial and ethnic health disparities by improving the collection of race, ethnicity, and primary language data, and by fostering collaboration among state agencies to address the underlying determinants of community health. The elimination of health disparities requires high-quality data, both to identify disparities and to gauge the effectiveness of programs designed to address them. It also requires government agencies to work together to address the underlying determinants of health.

People of color are less likely to live in communities with appropriate goods and services that foster good health, such as grocery stores, safe routes to school, parks and recreation, and adequate transportation. Improving health-related behaviors such as tobacco use, poor nutrition, and lack of physical activity is fundamental for effective prevention and can only be tackled when agencies responsible for health, transportation, housing, and economic development work together to develop coordinated strategies.

AB 2324 ensures that race, ethnicity, and primary language data is collected by state programs and agencies that provide services to the public, and that this data is used to identify disparities and gauge program effectiveness. The bill also encourages state agencies to address the underlying determinants of health disparities, such as poor transportation and housing. Tackling health disparities from many coordinated angles will hopefully help eliminate this continuing problem of injustice in our health system. Please send a letter to the Assembly Health Committee, where the bill is currently assigned. ###

What happens when women put pen to paper... brush to canvas... lens to scene?

Sparks

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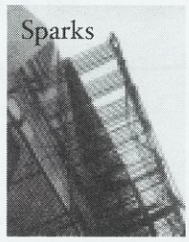

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Urge Feds to Allow Drug Importation

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

A new AIDS medication treating patients resistant to existing drugs is expected to get final approval within days but the AIDS community is anxious instead of celebrating. The issue is the high price tag for the drug, called Fuzeon—about $20,000 a year. That is almost triple the cost of the most expensive treatment now available.

In 2002 consumers paid $48.6 billion in out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, an increase of 15.3 percent over the previous year. Over the three prior years, prescription drug spending increased an average of 17.3 percent each year. On average, Americans spend $654 on drugs, while Britons pay only $197, according to a recent article in *Time* magazine. News reports estimate that more than one million Americans spent $800 million last year on prescription drugs from Canada, where drugs are 40 percent cheaper, on average.

Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 61 would urge the Secretary of Health and Human Services to certify that permitting the importation of prescription drugs from Canada into the United States poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety and, in fact, would result in a significant reduction in the cost of prescription drugs to the American consumer.

Currently it is illegal under federal law for Americans to buy drugs in Canada. The chief rationale for this is the claim that the safety and effectiveness of Canadian-produced drugs cannot be verified. The truth is, as numerous studies have shown, that Canadian drugs are just as safe and effective as those produced in the US. In fact, many of those drugs are manufactured by American pharmaceutical companies in their Canadian factories. Allowing people to buy their medicines in Canada will do much to slow the skyrocketing cost of medicine for US citizens. But first the federal government has to admit that drugs from Canada are safe and effective. The feds need to permit the importation of these medications. AJR 61 asks the federal government to do this. It deserves your support. Please write to the Assembly Health Committee and urge them to vote for AJR 61.

###

Women's Issue

Protect Poor Women's Right to Choose

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

AB 2291 would prohibit payment for an abortion by Medi-Cal unless the surgeon first obtained a signed statement from the patient acknowledging that she understands it is illegal for anyone to coerce her to have an abortion. Medi-Cal is a health insurance program for poor people in California.

Is this bill good for women? Does it support or undermine women's right to end an unwanted pregnancy?

Consider the following. The bill's author is Assemblymember Ray Haynes (R–Temecula). He is one of the legislature's most conservative members. Last year Lambda Letters Project gave his overall voting record a score of just 21.7 percent. His score on women's issues was barely better at 33.3 percent. In our view he voted the wrong way on women's issues two-thirds of the time.

Consider also the organizations that support this bill. Assemblymember Haynes' fact sheet on the bill lists just four supporters: National Right to Life, California Family Council, Capitol Resource Institute, and Concerned Women of America. They are the lead organizations fighting to deny women the right to end unwanted pregnancies.

Surely, if anyone is exerting pressure on women over the issue of abortion, it is the people who try to coerce them to give up their rights. If doctors are being pressured on this subject, the overwhelming pressure is to not perform abortions. Doctors have been murdered for performing this surgery.

Adding more paperwork for doctors, who already get the low reimbursement available for care of Medi-Care patients, only adds pressure on them not to perform abortions.

We need to protect the right of poor women to end unwanted pregnancies. Please write to the Assembly Health Committee and urge them to oppose AB 2291.

###

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issue

Support the Right to Marry

by Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

AB 1967 by Assemblymember Mark Leno (D–San Francisco) would allow same-sex couples to get marriage licenses in California. This bill will be voted on soon in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Last year AB 205 became law in California. As you may remember, that bill grants many of the rights and duties of marriage to same-sex couples. However, AB 205 only did part of the job. Many of the rights and duties of marriage are still unavailable to same-sex couples. Many of the protections for these families, and for the children they are raising, are still withheld by state law. Assemblymember Leno introduced AB 1967 to finish the job.

All this bill does is change who may receive a marriage license. It removes from state law the words that specify that only a man and a woman may obtain a license to marry. It states that any two persons, who otherwise qualify, may obtain a marriage license. Nothing else with regard to the qualifications for marriage, or as to the rights and duties of married people, changes. This bill does not require pastors or churches to condone or perform marriages for same-sex couples.

This change is long overdue. The Census Bureau reports that there are almost 600,000 same-sex couples in the United States—16 percent of them in California. The census also found little difference between these families and other families. Same-sex led families are, on average, probably no better, but certainly no worse, than families headed by opposite-sex couples.

It is good public policy for the government to nurture families and the children they raise. The right to marry, along with the rights and duties associated with marriage, is the primary tool by which governments do this. Same-sex families need and deserve that support no less than other families.

For all these reasons, please write to the Assembly Judiciary Committee urging them to vote for AB 1967.

###

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April Legislative Update

Each bill introduced in the state legislature must be reviewed by a policy committee in each house before the full Assembly and Senate can vote on them. The Assembly Health Committee is one such example of a policy committee. The job of the policy committee is to decide if the bill makes sense from a policy standpoint.

Any bill expected to cost the state or local governments $100,000 or more per year must also be voted on by the Appropriations Committee of each house before the full house can vote on it. A bill costing that much is called a "fiscal bill."

There are deadlines for getting through the policy committees. All fiscal bills must be approved by the policy committee of the house in which they were introduced by no later than April 23. Non-fiscal bills must be approved by the policy committee of the house in which they were introduced by no later than May 7.

The purpose of these deadlines is to ensure that bills move forward in time to be passed before the legislature closes for the year. Any bill missing these deadlines dies. No further action is permitted on the bill unless its author gets a waiver of the rules.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1925 (Ray Haynes, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To require advance notice to parents, under certain circumstances, of sex or AIDS education to be given in a school and to notify parents that they can remove their children from this education by submitting a written request.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Education Committee for a vote on March 31. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 1957 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To require the state to establish a Web site to display price comparisons of prescription drugs, including prices charged by licensed pharmacies in the state and Canadian pharmacies that provide mail-order service to the US that meet certification requirements established under the bill.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 14.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2125 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require that a diagnosis be written on any prescription written by a doctor or on any prescription medicine container unless the patient asks that it not be added.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 14.
LLP Position: Watch with concern. This measure could help senior citizens who may forget what a medicine is intended for but it may cause problems for people with socially unacceptable diseases as well.

AB 2871 (Patty Berg, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To make it easier for cities and counties to establish clean needle and syringe exchange programs.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on March 30. **LLP Position:** Support.

AJR 61 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To urge the US Secretary of Health and Human Services to certify that permitting the importation of prescription drugs from Canada into the US poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety and, in fact, results in a significant reduction in the cost of prescription drugs to the American consumer.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 14.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1149 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require the state to develop and disseminate information identifying pharmacies in Canada that meet recognized standards for the safe dispensing of dangerous drugs (prescriptions) to California residents. Also must publicize foreign suppliers that do not meet standards. Information should be posted on the Internet.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to the Senate Business and Professions Committee for a vote on March 22 **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1159 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 10 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source.
Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality for a vote on April 19
LLP Position: Support. This would facilitate authorized clean-needle exchange programs around the state.

SB 1494 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To provide that a qualified person with a medical marijuana identification card, or any designated primary caregiver, may possess any amount of marijuana consistent with the medical needs of that qualified person with an identification card.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a vote on March 24.
LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Transgender/Intersex Issues

AB 1918 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To allow a school employee, in a school district that is not subject to disability compensation laws, to take up to six weeks off with partial pay to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or domestic partner, or to bond with a new child.

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

Status: Referred to the Assembly PERS Committee for a vote on May 5.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1967 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses.
Status: Introduced. Probably will be referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2044 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To allow a credit for the amount paid or incurred by a taxpayer for long-term care or long-term care insurance for any family member of the taxpayer.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support if domestic partners are included in the definition of family.

AB 2208 (Christine Kehoe, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To require that domestic partners be treated equally to married couples by insurance companies with regard to benefits under all kinds of insurance policies.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2320 (Patricia Bates, R–Laguna Niguel)
Purpose: To authorize any worker to opt out of making contributions to, and receiving benefits from, the family temporary disability insurance program. This program provides six weeks of disability payments to workers who stay home to care for seriously ill family members, including domestic partners.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Insurance Committee for a vote on April 14.
LLP Position: Oppose. Allowing employees to opt out might bankrupt the program.

AB 2900 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To amend nondiscrimination language in California's labor and employment codes to make the language uniform. The nondiscrimination language found in the Fair Employment and Housing Act will be used as the model. Sexual orientation, gender identity, and language protecting women and other minorities will be amended into many of these government codes.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 60 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To approve an Assembly Joint Resolution urging Congress and President Bush to support the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. This act, now being considered in Congress, would allow US citizens to obtain permanent legal US residency for their domestic partners who are citizens of another country.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support. Currently straight couples can obtain the same result by marriage.

SB 1193 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)
Purpose: To require the state to pay a $10,000 death benefit to the surviving spouse of any member of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or Naval Militia who dies or is killed in the performance of their duty. This would also provide that the surviving spouse and children of the deceased member shall qualify for benefits under the National Guard Assumption Program of Loans for Education, and would exempt the spouse and children from paying tuition and fees at any public postsecondary educational institution in this state.
Status: Referred to the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee for a vote on April 13.
LLP Position: Support if bill is amended to allow the service member to designate any beneficiary of the death benefit.

SB 1234 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To enact a uniform definition of "hate crime" and direct all state and local agencies to use it exclusively; encourage all law-enforcement agencies to adopt a formal hate-crime protocol; direct law-enforcement agencies to deliver expanded hate crimes training to their officers; and increase penalties for hate crimes.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 25 (Fabian Nunez, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require state agencies to accept as valid identification a foreign identification card issued by another nation, as defined, to its citizens or nationals, subject to specified excep-

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tions. This would allow police officers to request additional ID if the officers thought the original ID might be a fake. **Status:** Sent to inactive status on the Senate floor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 292 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency, except as specified. This would require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for providing competent translation services.
Status: Currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 858 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit public schools from using the word "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Referred to Senate Education Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1657 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To prohibit the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or import into this state of any prepackaged gelatin-based (like Jell-O) alcoholic beverage unless it is sold in a business (for consumption on the premises) that prohibits the presence of persons under 21 years of age on its premises.
Status: Currently in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1796 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To provide that a convicted drug felon shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee for a vote on March 23. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1815 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To raise the income tax rate and the alternate minimum income tax rate on California's wealthiest citizens.
Status: Referred to Assembly Revenue and Tax Committee for a hearing on March 22.
LLP Position: Support. This would reduce the pressure to make cuts to vital HIV/AIDS programs and other health and social service programs.

AB 1845 (Alan Lowenthal, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To require anyone contracting with the state to agree not to hire undocumented immigrants to do work covered by the contract or a subcontract. Author intends to change the purpose to say that contractors with the state may not use people in other countries to do work under contracts with the state of California.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Business and Professions Committee for a vote on April 13. **LLP Position:** Oppose in its current form.

AB 1895 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To require that an attorney who specializes in immigration law, or a certified immigration specialist, be provided to a dependent child of the court who is not a citizen of the US and who is deemed eligible for long-term foster care.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on March 23. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1920 (Doug La Malfa, R–Redding)
Purpose: To reword current law to clarify that the burning or desecrating of a cross, or any religious symbol, on private property can be prosecuted as a felony.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on March 23. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1963 (Simon Salinas, D–Salinas)
Purpose: To encourage the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers to provide better health outcomes for rural and underserved communities, particularly agricultural workers, and seek to incorporate the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers in the full range of state-funded health programs. (*Promotores de salud* are programs that utilize trained community members to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate outreach, education, and access to services.)
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on March 23. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2221 (John Campbell, R–Irvine)
Purpose: To overturn current law which requires that certain consumer contracts, which were negotiated in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean, be provided in written form in that language to the customer before the contract is signed.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

AB 2278 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To declare that California's community colleges don't get enough financial support and that funding for community colleges should be based on full-time enrollment, while the amount of state funding for community colleges should be based on the national average of state financial support for community colleges.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2324 (Judy Chan, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require many state programs to collect data regarding the race, ethnicity, national origin, and primary language of all participants. This would require the state to convene a task force to find ways that state

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

agencies can help eliminate the underlying causes of racial and ethnic health disparities.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 14.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2387 (Marco Firebaugh, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To implement the holding of Grutter v. Bollinger (2003) 539 US 306 and state that the narrowly tailored use of race in admissions decisions to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body is not an illegal preference prohibited by Section 31 of Article I of the California Constitution.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Higher Education Committee for a vote probably on April 20.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 172 (George Nakano, D–Torrance)
Purpose: To declare February 19, 2004, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.
Status: Approved by the Assembly. Awaiting a final vote in the Senate.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 54 (Robert Pacheco, R–City of Industry)
Purpose: To petition Congress to revise the formula used to calculate the federal Medicaid assistance percentage (FMAP) to consider, in addition to a state's per-capita income, the total number of persons living in poverty in that state.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on March 23.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would provide more federal money for the Medi-Cal program and reduce the need for enrollment caps or budget cuts to the program.

AJR 62 (Ridley Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To ask Congress to repeal a law that prohibits the federal government from bargaining over drug prices for Medicare prescription drugs.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 13.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 64 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To condemn hate crimes against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and other Americans and to urge police to prevent these crimes and to vigorously investigate and prosecute them.

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Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on March 30.

SB 17 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To amend the laws relating to property taxes on nonresidential commercial and industrial property to eliminate loopholes that have allowed such properties to evade reassessment upon sale of the property.
Status: Awaiting a final vote in the Assembly.
LLP Position: Support. This bill would increase tax revenues and reduce the need to cut spending on health and social services programs.

SB 921 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To declare the intent of the legislature to implement a single-payer, universal healthcare delivery system in California.
Status: Currently in the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1144 (John Burton, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow the state to buy drugs from, among others, Canadian manufacturers when that permits it to pay less for the drugs. Would require the state to seek federal permission to buy drugs in Canada.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow undocumented immigrants, under certain circumstances, to obtain driver's licenses. Details of the bill wording are still being worked out.
Status: Introduced. Not assigned to a committee yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1170 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require the state to establish (on or before January 1, 2005) a list of maximum allowable costs that drug providers could charge the state for medicines used in the Medi-Cal program.
Status: Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support. The list would keep costs down and reduce pressure to limit enrollment in Medi-Cal.

SB 1188 (Wesley Chesbro, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To provide grants to local governments that issue building permits for low-cost housing developments for farm workers.
Status: Referred to the Senate Housing and Community Development Committee for a vote on March 22.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1333 (Don Perata, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To require the state to negotiate the price of medications it purchases for Medi-Cal so that the prices paid are the same as, or less than, the lowest price given to any federal, state, or local government.
Status: Referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a vote on March 24.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1354 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To eliminate excessive tax credits being claimed by corporations in California to help solve the state's budget deficit without cutting vital services.
Status: Referred to the Senate Revenue and Tax Committee for a vote on April 14. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1452 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To prohibit the state from contracting with any individual or entity that employs persons or subcontractors outside the US.
Status: Referred to the Senate Governmental Organization Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Oppose unless contracts for medicines are exempted. This might prevent the state from cutting costs by buying medicines from Canada. That, in turn, might hurt public health programs.

SB 1499 (Kevin Murray, D–Culver City)
Purpose: To prohibit an employer from charging a fee for cashing an employee's payroll check, transporting an employee to a job site, or renting an employee the tools necessary to perform the duties of the employment.
Status: Referred to the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee for a hearing on April 14.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1503 (Tom McClintock, R–Thousand Oaks)
Purpose: To overturn current law that allows certain undocumented young people to pay lower in-state tuition rates at the California Community Colleges and the California State University. Lambda Letters fought hard to gain passage of that current law two years ago.
Status: Referred to the Senate Education Committee for a hearing on March 31. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

SB 1714 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)
Purpose: To provide civil damages to any California resident who was a victim of coerced repatriation to Mexico between 1929 and 1944. This benefit extends to any heir or beneficiary of a victim of coerced repatriation. Suit could be brought against the state of California or any local government, private party, or business which enforced the repatriation.

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Legislative Update

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Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

SJR 21 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)
Purpose: To ask Congress to establish a fact-finding commission to determine if the federal government mistreated American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Mexican descent who were deported or coerced to emigrate during the 1930s and to recommend appropriate remedies.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 1813 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To provide increased penalties for people convicted of committing domestic violence in the presence of a child.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Public Safety Committee for a vote on March 30. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1825 (Sarah Reyes, D–Fresno)
Purpose: To require larger employers to post information about the laws against, and the remedies for, sexual harassment and to train supervisors on the subject.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a vote on March 31. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2010 (Loni Hancock, D–Berkeley)
Purpose: To allow Alameda and Solano Counties to increase fees, up to a maximum increase of $2, for certified copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, fetal death records, and death records, for the purposes of providing funding for governmental oversight and for the coordination of domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution efforts in the county.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a vote on March 23. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2018 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To provide that, in a divorce case in which one party has been convicted of criminal domestic violence in the last five years, the other party has a rebuttable presumption of entitlement to 100 percent of the community property.
Status: Introduced.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2148 (Manny Diaz, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To allow a court to require parties to a child custody, visitation, and child-support proceedings to pay attorney's fees and court costs. This would allow the court to order one party to pay the other party's costs when the other party cannot afford them; would allow the court to issue a temporary order on child custody, visitation, and child support while the case is being litigated; and would allow the court to order spousal support, if the parties are married, during litigation of a domestic abuse case.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2291 (Ray Haynes, R–Temecula)
Purpose: To prohibit the funding of an abortion under the Medi-Cal program unless the physician performing the abortion has obtained written assurance from the patient that she understands that she may not be coerced into having an abortion. The bill would prohibit the reimbursement of a provider for abortion services unless the provider submits a statement signed by the recipient of the Medi-Cal benefits that includes a statement that it is against the law for anyone to force, intimidate, or coerce the recipient into having an abortion.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Health Committee for a vote on April 14.
LLP Position: Oppose.

AB 2317 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To increase the penalty for employers who pay women less for doing the same work as men.
Status: Referred to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a vote on March 31.
LLP Position: Support.

AJR 57 (Hanna-Beth Jackson, D–Santa Barbara)
Purpose: To petition Congress to uphold the US Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration of "The March for Women's Lives."
Status: Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on March 30. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide that a victim of domestic violence or abuse has the right to have a domestic violence counselor and a support person of his or her choosing present at any interview by law enforcement authorities, district attorneys, or defense attorneys.
Status: Referred to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a vote on March 30. **LLP Position:** Support.

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